



## **ECHO Summaries, Week of Dec. 7-10, 2020**

As a reminder, the opinions of the HUB team members and presenters are their own and do not necessarily represent those of UAA, CHD, DHSS, or any ECHO sponsors.

For recordings and notes: [ECHO AK Public Health COVID-19 Response](https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/echo.aspx)

### **Vaccine Media Pop-Up ECHO Overview, Monday, 12/7/20**

**Synopsis:** This week's pop-up ECHO's information and questions focused around the upcoming anticipated vaccine arrival and more details on the available vaccines. Important things noted were:

- First allocation will include:
  - Pfizer: 35,000 doses
  - Moderna: 17,900 doses
- The initial allocation is more than expected. (Walker-Linderman)
- The vaccine will be shipped to one location in Alaska where our team will work with multiple airlines, curriers, tribal groups, etc. to distribute the vaccine throughout the state. (Bobo)
- The state is currently working to identify what the storage abilities are in each community to help determine needs in these areas. (Walker-Linderman)
- The second dose of each vaccine is stored at the federal level and the state will receive the allocated second dose two weeks following the first dose. (Pistotnik)
- There are monitoring devices that track the temperature during the entire transportation process, allowing providers assurance that it's still viable. (Pistotnik)
- "One year later, to be looking at two safe and stable vaccines that are efficacious is exciting. No steps were skipped. This has been a game changer." (Zink)

### **Science ECHO Overview, Wednesday, 12/9/20**

**Synopsis:** This week's science ECHO focused heavily on details of the vaccine process, virus transmission and requests for more data. Important things highlighted during the Q&A were:

- Immunity duration following the vaccine is still unknown. This is data that will become more available as time and studies continue. (McLaughlin)
- There's no basis or data that shows this vaccine could cause sterilization. The vaccine is mimicking the spike protein, which is not the same type of protein that the placenta contains. (Ohlsen)
- People will not need to take an antibody test before taking the vaccine. (Zink)
- Long-term damage to recovered COVID patients is still unknown. (Zink)
- The most recent data shows we're over a 6% positivity rate from tests at the airport. (Dr. Coleman Cutchins) That means 1/16 people getting tested at the airport have traveled with COVID-19. (Ohlsen)

#### **Links:**

[Bring Back the Night Event](#)

[EAU Bamlanivimab Info](#)

[EUA Bamlanivimab Patient Info](#)

[EUA Regeneron Patient Info](#)

[CT Value and Testing Information](#)

[DHSS - Monoclonal Antibodies and New Infusion Center](#)

[CDC - COVID-19 Long Term Effects](#)

[CLI Snapshot](#)

[JAMA - Long COVID](#)

[CDC - Health Equity Considerations and racial and Ethnic Minority Groups](#)

[Excess Mortality Info](#)

[Microbiology Textbook](#)

## **Media ECHO Overview, Thursday, 12/10/20**

**Synopsis:** Today's Media ECHO questions focused heavily on vaccine distribution and allocation. The panel was able to clarify a few important points:

- The DHSS COVID-19 website was revised and live as of 12/8/20. (Zink)
- Roughly 25,000 critical care hospital workers, long-term care facility individuals and EMS workers are expected to receive the first round of vaccines. (Walker-Linderman)

- As phase 1A & 1B are being administered, the Alaska Allocation Committee will continue to work through the review and approval processes for the next phases. (Walker-Linderman)
- Those that have tested positive for COVID-19 will be allowed to receive the vaccine, but might be asked to wait until 90 days after infection. Data shows the incidence of reinfection within 90 days is very low. (McLaughlin)
- Itemized lists of which vaccines were administered within what communities won't be readily available for privacy considerations. The data team is working on what public facing data will be available and what that will look like. (Walker-Linderman)
- Access to testing and quick turnarounds are better in smaller communities over the larger ones. When communities get involved, take charge and work together to find a solution, things get better and work easier. (Cutchins)
- Immunocompromised individuals are encouraged to speak to their healthcare providers to receive more information about the vaccine prior to getting it. (Zink)
- Each dose provided to the state represents the number of people who can get vaccinated. (Walker-Linderman) The federal government is holding off the second dose so it will be available when needed. (Bobo)
- Although in constant communication with DOD and the national guard regarding logistics, the plan is to use existing infrastructure initially while adjusting to fit the needs for more unique areas like the Alutians. (Walker-Linderman)
- Organized sports, even if done outside, still pose a risk to participants the more that individuals are within a close proximity to one another over a period of time. This includes time sitting on a bench or even carpooling to and from those sports. (McLaughlin)
- Although the date is not certain, it's anticipated that the first vaccinations will be given sometime in the next week. (Walker-Lindeman)

#### **Links:**

[Governor's Planned Emergency Declaration](#)

[CDC MMWR 1](#)

[CDC MMWR 2](#)

[Safety and Efficacy of Vaccine](#)

[Article on Differential Racial Treatment and Vaccines](#)

## **Vaccine ECHO Overview, Thursday, 12/10/20**

**Synopsis:** The Vaccine ECHO today focused heavily on the timeline of the distribution, allocation and continued studies on the vaccines. Key points made were:

- “It’s time to buckle up, wear your mask, keep your distance, wash your hands and avoid indoor space with others, and when it’s your turn, please consider helping land this ‘pandemic plane’ by getting vaccinated. I know I will.” -Dr. Anne Zink
- Those who are listed in the initial allocation groups, that are not located in a phase 1A receiving facility, will be reached out to and made aware of where they can receive their vaccine. (LeClaire)
- When you get the vaccine, it will mostly protect you from getting the virus. A real turning point will come when many of us are protected from COVID because we can protect one another by not spreading it. (Ohlsen)
- Communities do not need to purchase ultra-cold storage units.. (Pistotnik)
- One coordinator and a backup coordinator are required to get training as CDC vaccinators, but training will be available to anyone that wants it. (Pistotnik)
- The DOD and VA will receive a federal allocation and there is a separate plan for them that is being worked through right now. (Pistotnik)
- There are plans for increased messaging and ideas to assist in normalizing the vaccine process once they begin. This information will be shared during next week’s ECHO. (Alicia Nelson)
- The two vaccines are not interchangeable. Whatever vaccine you receive for your first dose, you’ll need to receive for the second dose. (Ohlsen)

### **Links:**

[Vaccine Clinical Considerations](#)

[Required Training Links](#)